

# CASH ON DELIVERY

A Wimborne Drama Production

A farce by Michael Cooney

Tivoli Theatre

Thursday 3rd - Saturday 5th July

Evenings at 7.30pm (£10), Sat matinee at 2.30pm (£8)

Eric Swan (aided by his Uncle George and unbeknownst to his wife, Linda) has pocketed thousands of pounds through fraudulent DSS claims. When Norman Bassett (the lodger) opens the door to Mr Jenkins, the DSS Inspector, deceptive mayhem follows — as do the undertaker, bereavement counsellor, psychiatrist, Norman's fiancé, a corpse, the ominous Ms Cowper and a rather rebellious washing machine! This farcical comedy, written by Michael Cooney (son of legendary farce author "Ray"), has all the ingredients for a rib-tickling evening of fun!

Box Office 01202 885566

Or book online at [www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk](http://www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk)

President of Wimborne Drama: Anthony Oliver MBE

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A Wimborne Drama  
Production

Noël Coward's classic comedy

# Present Laughter

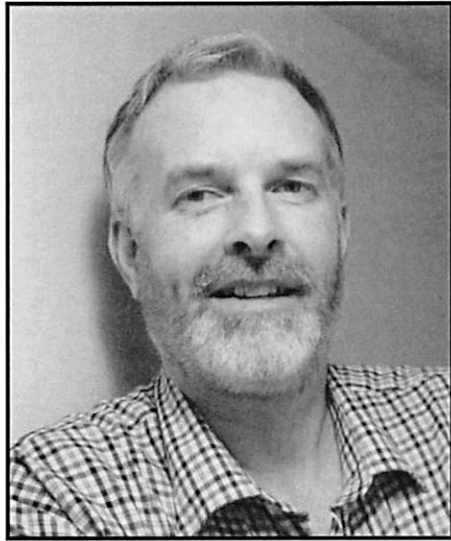


20th - 22nd  
February 2014

TIVOLI THEATRE  
WIMBORNE



# Welcome



WELCOME to the Tivoli Theatre for this performance of Noël Coward's sophisticated bedroom farce! Written in his fortieth year, it shows 'The Master' at his very best – sharp, stylish and knowing.

I am thrilled to be directing a Noël Coward play again at the Tivoli. I never tire of the wit and humour in his writing and the wonderful characters he creates.

Also, I am delighted to be working again with many of the talented company behind

our 2012 smash-hit production of HAY FEVER. Add to the mix some exciting fresh faces, and hopefully you'll agree we have another fabulous show for you to enjoy.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank my terrific cast, for bringing the play to life on stage so brilliantly, and my creative team, especially Phyllis Spencer, Colin Pile and my wife Chrissie Neal, without whose support the whole experience would have been so much harder and far less enjoyable.

2014 is a significant year for Wimborne Drama: incredibly we have been performing at the Tivoli for 20 years! If you have been with us for the whole journey, thank you for your wonderful support. If you joined us somewhere along the route, then thanks for staying on board. Or if this is the first time you have to come to see us perform, then we hope you like it enough to come again and bring your friends. Here's to the next 20 years!

Enjoy the play!

Richard Neal - Director

## PENNY PEARSON (Liz Essendine)

**Place of birth:** Essex. **Occupation:** Graphic Designer. **Year joined Wimborne Drama:** 2004. **Favourite tippie:** Red wine. **Dullest play:** Hmm. I don't think I want to name any for fear of hurting anyone's feelings! **Most magnificent role:** Got to be that of Romaine in WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION. A fantastic part in a great play with some of my favourite actors. The icing on the cake was being able to come on stage in disguise and try to fool the audience into believing I was someone else! **Most unflattering comment:** Nope, sorry. Can't think of any. I don't think that's because they've always been good, just that I've a rubbish memory. **Actor:** Dustin Hoffman, probably. He's such a great actor and so focussed but seems like he'd be a lot of fun to work with, too. I haven't loved every film I've seen him in but I have loved every performance of his that I've seen. **Who or what makes you laugh?** I can still watch BLACKADDER II and laugh like a drain even though I've seen them all a dozen times. **Something from the 1930s:** House prices!

## HEATHER SEATON (Lady Saltburn)

**Place of birth:** Leicester. **Occupation:** Freelance Floor Manager/Studio Director TV. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** I joined Wimborne Drama in 2012 and enjoyed helping backstage for SPIDER'S WEB. **Favourite tippie:** lemonade and lime (with ice and a slice of lemon if I'm really pushing the boat out). **Dullest play:** The dullest play I have ever seen was many years ago and was a Scottish production of Alan Ayckbourn's A CRICKET MATCH - a perfectly funny play but this particular production was extremely slow with about 5 minutes between each line of dialogue!! Still, it enabled me to catch up on some sleep!! I have to say I have seen a different production of this play since and it was hilarious. **Most magnificent role:** has to be the King's youngest daughter (aged 4) in the Harrow Light Opera Company's production of THE KING AND I; one of my Royal siblings being Simon Le Bon (aged 7). Of course, this was just a few

years ago!! **Who makes you laugh?** My hero since I was 13 - Keith Chegwin. I have been fortunate enough to work with him but would happily repeat the experience!! And Miranda - I can frighteningly relate to a lot of her antics. **Something from the 1930s:** I would have loved a ticket to one of the Music Hall/Variety Shows in the 1930s. Some of the old Music Hall acts were fantastic.

## MICHAEL J SMITH (Fred)

**Place of birth:** Harrow, but that was boring so relocated to Oxford at age 5 where all my family come from. **Occupation:** Being retired I suppose it is Wimborne Drama and being married to Verena, which is a full time job in itself! During my working life I was a Theatre Accountant which kept the financial boat afloat but my true occupation was performing and will be, "...as long as anyone is interested and when the time comes that they are not, I shall be perfectly happy with an apple and a good book". **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 2007 when we moved to the area. **Favourite tippie:** It has to be two Boddingtons beer and a good single malt. **Dullest play:** Oh my God! It has to be MURDER AT THE VICARAGE at Drama School. I hated the play, thought it was beneath me and I was really bad, didn't learn the lines properly - what an arrogant little so and so I was! **Most magnificent role:** King Lear, it was a great honour to play him and it was of the few things in my life of which I am very proud. **Most unflattering comment:** The director of MURDER AT THE VICARAGE was the tutor I most admired and did she let me have it in her appraisal! I never again thought the actor was more important than the play! **Actor:** Peggy Ashcroft, the greatest actress I ever saw on stage. It would have been wonderful to have known and worked with her. **Who makes you laugh?** Dave Allen, my wife Verena, who can still surprise me, and Jan Stevenson from Wimborne Drama. **Something from the 1930s:** Well I am a 1934 vintage and I'm very happy still to have me here!

**role:** Pop in WE WILL ROCK YOU. **Actors:** Benedict Cumberbatch, David Tennant, Adrian Lester, Martin Freeman, professionally they are my favourite actors. **Who or what makes you laugh?** Lee Mack, Miranda, YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED. **Something from the 1930s:** a type writer, because I have always wanted to use one, and they are awesome

### CLAIRE HUTTON (Daphne Stillington)

**Place of birth:** Poole. **Occupation:** Theatre Customer Assistant at Bournemouth Pavilion. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 2012. **Favourite tittle:** Martini Rosso with lemonade. **Dullest play:** A Russian performance of Chekhov's THREE SISTERS - not sure if I found it boring because it was entirely in Russian or because I have a very un-drama-student-like dislike for Chekhov. **Most magnificent role:** Tellus in John Lyly's ENDYMION at uni. She was basically the Earth, in female form. A somewhat unhinged Earth. **Most unflattering comment:** I was always told in school reports that I was too quiet in class and needed to speak out more. They probably wouldn't have quite said that if they'd written that report by the time I finished sixth form! **Actor:** Not even going to try and be original about it - it would have to be Benedict Cumberbatch! **Who or what makes you laugh?** I do love a bit of stand up comedy - my favourite comedians being Michael McIntyre, Dara Ó Briain and Louis C.K. **Something from the 1930s:** the style!!

### SAM MOULTON (Garry Essendine)

**Place of birth:** Cuckfield, Sussex (not far from Uckfield). **Occupation:** teacher. **Year joined Wimborne Drama:** 2011. **Favourite tittle:** any kind of Real Ale. **Dullest play:** THE LIBERATION OF SKOPJE, with Vanessa Redgrave. Almost unintelligible. There was a horse on stage at one point. **Most magnificent role:** It has to be this one! It's not everyday you get to show off all the time and be rude to everyone (except at work). **Most unflattering comment:** One reference said I was "not dynamic" - but I still

got the job! **Actor:** I think it would have been pretty exciting to have been in The Lord Chamberlain's Men with Shakespeare, performing all those plays with him for the first time. **Who or what makes you laugh?** lots of things, but radio comedy most of all. Although I do like silent comedy too. **Something from the 1930s:** a 1930 Bentley. I made an Airfix model of one once and have wanted a real one ever since.

### TRACEY NICHOLLS (Joanna Lyppiatt)

**Place of birth:** Hammersmith. **Occupation:** Operations Manager. **Year joined Wimborne Drama:** 2002. **Favourite tittle:** Baileys over ice (yum!) **Dullest play:** THE HAUNTED HOTEL (absolutely awful - avoid it like the plague) **Most magnificent role:** I wouldn't describe myself as magnificent but in terms of characters Joanna in this play has been the most fun and challenging - so different to me in real life. **Most unflattering comment:** "She tries hard but completely lacks spatial awareness" (P.E. report) **Actor:** I would do pretty much anything to appear in SHERLOCK with Benedict Cumberbatch - that would be a dream come true. **Who makes you laugh?** Miranda - such fun! I think we were separated at birth. **Something from the 1930s:** The glamorous clothes and wonderful manners.

### TONY PARKINSON (Morris Dixon)

**Place of birth:** Chatham in Kent. **Occupation:** Financial Services. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 2009. **Favourite tittle:** decent red wine. **Dullest play:** I'm sure I have seen a dull play at some point but not dull enough to walk out. **Most magnificent role:** You may have to ask audiences that question, although measured by laughter: playing Mellersh Wilton in ENCHANTED APRIL. Also, in the past I enjoyed playing Father Mullarkey in ONCE A CATHOLIC. **Most unflattering comment:** "Could do better" in a school report. **Actor:** Tom Cruise. **Who makes you laugh?** Peter Kay. **Something from the 1930s:** An Auburn 851 Speedster car.

# A bravura part

Noël Coward wrote PRESENT LAUGHTER during April and May 1939, at the same time as completing another new play, THIS HAPPY BREED. "I planned to appear in both plays myself in the autumn," he explained, "acting on alternate nights with the same company. They both turned out well, in spite of the fact that while I was writing them I was aware that in all probability they would never be produced, at least not at the time that I intended them to be. This dismal clairvoyance was ultimately justified."

The plays were cast and went as far as the dress rehearsals on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, but then war broke out on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and the whole project was naturally abandoned.

It was not until 1942 that the plays were finally staged. John Wilson in association with Hugh

Beaumont and HM Tennent Ltd arranged a 25-week tour beginning in Blackpool in September. By now Coward had written a third new play, BLITHE SPIRIT, and with PRESENT LAUGHTER and THIS HAPPY BREED, they were performed in rep under the general title of PLAY PARADE.

In his introduction to the plays, Coward wrote: "PRESENT LAUGHTER was written with the sensible object of providing me with a bravura part". The play's title comes from a song in Shakespeare's TWELFTH NIGHT, which urges *carpe diem* or "seize the day":

What is love? 'tis not hereafter;  
Present mirth hath present laughter;  
What's to come is still unsure:  
In delay there lies no plenty;  
Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty,  
Youth's a stuff will not endure.



Noël Coward as Garry with Judy Campbell as Joanna

# The inner circle

Noël Coward acknowledged that the central character in PRESENT LAUGHTER, the egocentric actor Garry Essendine, who is always 'acting' but won't act his age, was a self-caricature.

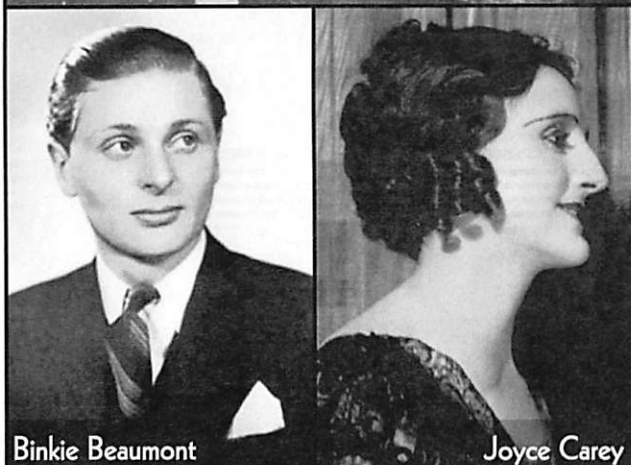
The other main characters in the play are loosely based on Coward's friends and associates. Monica is based on Lorn Loraine, Coward's long-serving and much-loved secretary.

For Morris read Coward's agent and sometime lover John "Jack" Wilson, and Henry is hugely successful and influential theatre producer Hugh "Binkie" Beaumont.

Liz, played originally by Joyce Carey, is thought to be based partly on the actress herself, who was also a member of Coward's inner circle.



Noël Coward with Lorn Loraine



Binkie Beaumont

Joyce Carey



Noël Coward, Jack Wilson & Gertrude Lawrence

# Meet the cast

## PAUL DODMAN (Henry Lyppiatt)

**Place of birth:** Chipping Norton. **Occupation:** English Teacher. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 1997. **Favourite tippie:** Probably a gin and tonic. **Dullest play you've ever seen or appeared in:** As it was for Wimborne Drama I shall plead the fifth amendment... **Your most magnificent role:** I enjoyed playing Leonard in WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION. **Most unflattering comment ever received:** One review once said I was "reluctant to share" my words with the audience – charming. **Actor you'd most like to be associated with:** Acting with Tom Baker would be awesome. **Who or what makes you laugh?** Rehearsals usually make me laugh. FATHER TED on TV is still funny. Most of my students, most days! **Something from the 1930s you'd like to have today:** 5 day Atlantic crossings on cruise ships – much better than a cramped 8 hour flight.

## BOO FELTHAM (Monica Reed)

**Place of birth:** Winchester. **Occupation:** School Business Manager. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 2001. **Favourite tippie:** A glass of red Pinot Noir or Swiss Dole. **Dullest play:** I vaguely remember a school trip to The Barbican to see MACBETH, and being so bored that we all sat on the floor in front of our chairs and played cards. **Most magnificent role:** Lynne in STEPPING OUT, mainly because of the show stopping dance we managed to pull off at the end, which was truly magnificent! **Most unflattering comment:** A school report - age 16 - for P.E. stated "if Beverly had turned up to a single P.E. lesson this term I may have been able to comment on her progress!" I wasn't a fan of Lacrosse lessons so spent the entire term hiding under coats in the cloakroom in order to avoid them! **Actor you'd most like to be associated with:** If I didn't say Ewan McGregor I would be kidding myself.... **Who or what makes you laugh?** Thankfully many people! Billy Crystal,

Eddie Izzard, Sarah Millican, my friends, my family - particularly my daughter who at the age of 3 is already perfecting the art of comic timing. **Something from the 1930s:** A Lady's lifestyle. To be able to fill my day doing correspondence, calling on people for tea and cake, a spot of needle craft and playing the piano whilst my servants do all the chores!

## JUDY GARRETT (Miss Erikson)

**Place of birth:** Poole Maternity Hospital. **Occupation:** Began career in Child Care, then Family Social work, then Health Visiting. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** Initially joined in 2000; rejoined Summer 2011. **Favourite tippie:** the occasional red wine. **Dullest play:** One of the dullest plays I've appeared in was COSTA DEL PACKET a One Act farce by Anthony Booth; I played an enthusiastic Tour Guide called Hump. **Most magnificent role:** I very much enjoyed the role of Teresa in MEMORY OF WATER by Shelagh Stephenson; the play won an Echo Curtain Call Award. **Most unflattering comment:** One of the most unflattering reviews was for my portrayal of Miss Flint in the comedy MY FRIEND MISS FLINT by Donald Churchill/Peter Yeldham. Can't remember precise wording but words to the effect I was "mutton dressed as lamb"!! **Actor:** I admire Julie Walters; she can play both comedy and dramatic roles. Also Helen Mirren. **What makes you laugh?** I enjoy funny animal behaviour/antics (particularly dogs) **Something from the 1930s:** I like the women's fashion in 1930s; although I wear a housekeeper's fetching overall for this role!

## CALUM HEARNE (Roland Maule)

**Place of birth:** Southampton Hospital. **Occupation:** Student and part-time shop assistant. **Joined Wimborne Drama:** 2013. **Favourite tippie:** cider. **Dullest play:** One of the one act plays, in Ferndown. **Most magnificent**



# Creative Team

Director RICHARD NEAL  
Stage Manager PHYLLIS SPENCER  
Set Design RICHARD NEAL & COLIN PILE  
Set Construction COLIN PILE & CHRIS DURHAM  
Assistant Stage Managers MOIRA HAWEY  
VERENA SMITH-MAURER  
Continuity BARRY BAYNTON  
Costume Supervisor CHRISSIE NEAL  
Piano Arrangement SAM MOULTON  
Sound & Lighting KYLE BEST & KIERAN HENSHAW-RAY

## Production Acknowledgements

Costumes provided by Hirearchy  
Mr Maule's jumper knitted by Ginette King  
Furniture loaned by The Crown Hotel Blandford  
Table loaned by Wimborne Methodist Church  
Also we acknowledge the help and support of:  
Val Mantle, Phil Spencer, David Pile & Simon Jackson

Daisy Graphic  
Forest FM  
Gullivers Bookshop  
King's Head Hotel Wimborne  
Royal British Legion Wimborne  
Wimborne Tourist Information Centre  
and



## HALL & WOODHOUSE

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre 20th - 22nd February 2014  
In memory of two of our longest serving members and very dear friends  
Arthur "Joe" Brooks and Daphne Young who will be sadly missed

# Present Laughter

by Noël Coward

## Cast in order of appearance

Daphne Stillington	CLAIRE HUTTON
Miss Erikson	JUDY GARRETT
Fred	MICHAEL J SMITH
Monica Reed	BOO FELTHAM
Garry Essendine	SAM MOULTON
Liz Essendine	PENNY PEARSON
Roland Maule	CALUM HEARNE
Henry Lyppiatt	PAUL DODMAN
Morris Dixon	TONY PARKINSON
Joanna Lyppiatt	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Lady Saltburn	HEATHER SEATON

The action of the play takes place in Garry Essendine's Studio in London

ACT I Morning

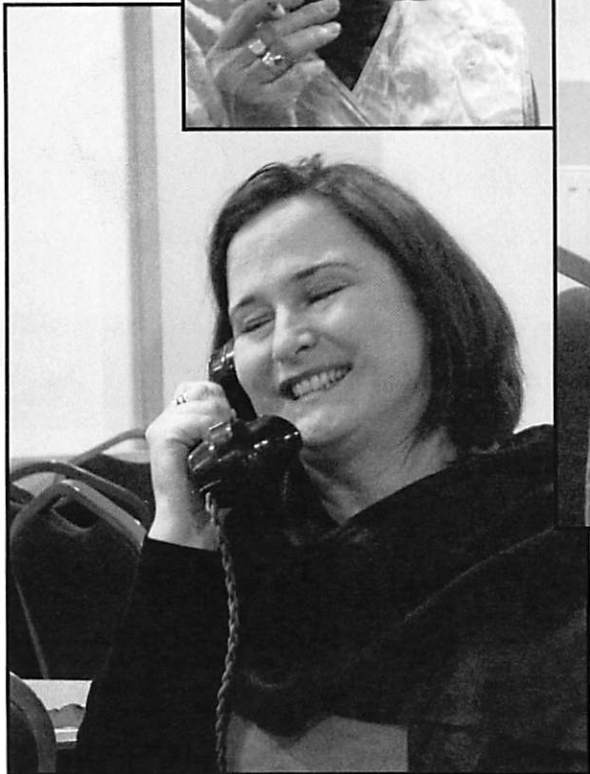
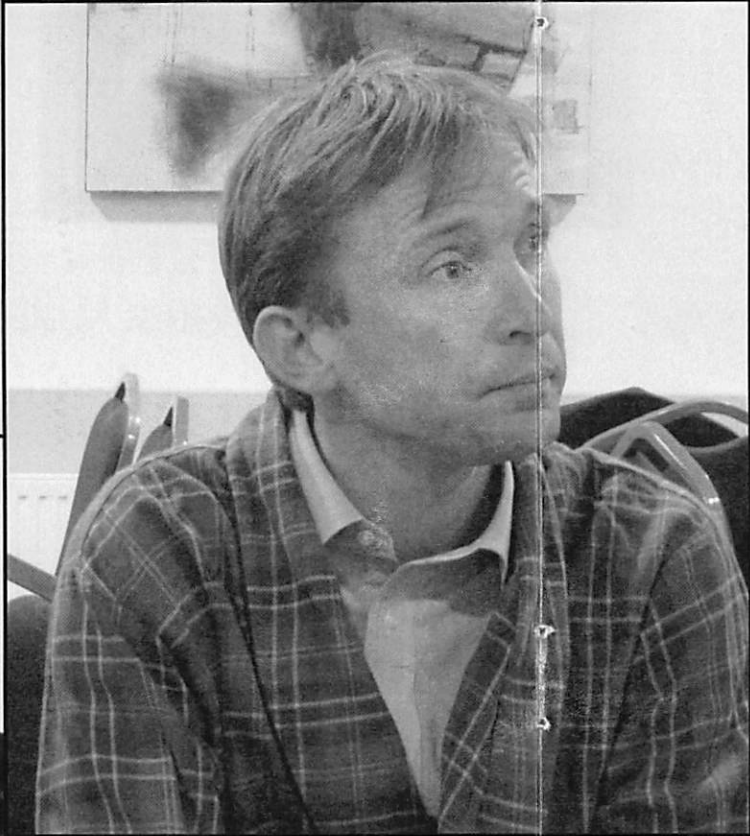
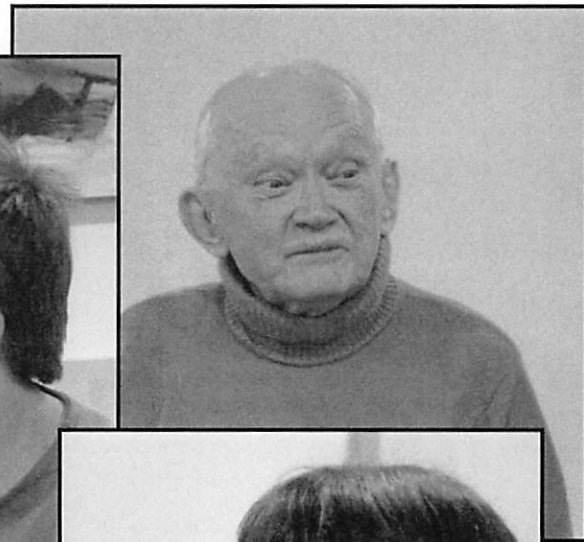
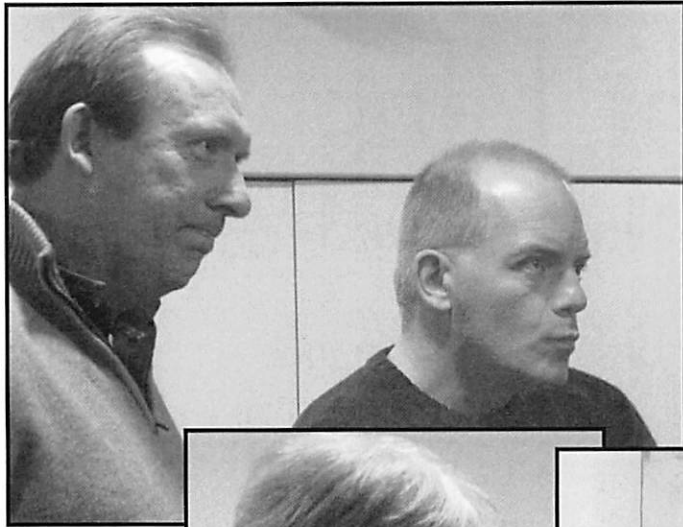
ACT II Scene 1 Evening. Three days later

INTERVAL

ACT II Scene 2 The next morning

Act III Evening. A week later

Running time approximately 2 hours 40 minutes including a 20-minute interval



## Cast in rehearsal

Clockwise from centre: Sam Moulton, Heather Seaton, Calum Hearne, Michael J Smith, Tracey Nicholls, Claire Hutton, Boo Feltham, Penny Pearson, Judy Garrett, Tony Parkinson and Paul Dodman